

the U.S. economy. That means jobs in small towns and rural areas. Without the assurance that this incentive is in place, it would be extremely difficult for producers and investors to plan for the future. Ethanol has value beyond just the agriculture economy, it also has important environmental benefits that Congress should continue to encourage.

I recently hand-delivered 850 letters from my constituents to Speaker GINGRICH asking him to continue his support of the ethanol tax incentives. I am pleased the Speaker expressed his strong support for these incentives and consequently expect that support to carry through the conference process on this bill.

Finally, I would like to commend the Chairman and the rest of the House leadership, including Speaker GINGRICH and Majority Leader ARMEY, for heeding the call of the rank and file to schedule consideration of this bill prior to the upcoming district work period. For a time, it appeared Congress would have attempted to go home without considering this measure. As my colleagues know, however, the current extension of ISTEA is set to expire on April 30. Seeing this deadline on the horizon, I joined Mrs. EMERSON of Missouri and Mr. PEASE of Indiana in circulating a letter among our colleagues pledging our intention to vote against adjournment later today if H.R. 2400 has not been considered. Over 100 signatures were gathered in a matter of just a few hours. The issue has both national and local support. Letting yet another deadline pass on federal highway programs would have been more than the South Dakota Department of Transportation, the contractors of South Dakota, and most importantly, the motorists of my State could bear. Hopefully, such an occurrence will be avoided with today's action.

In light of these factors, I intend to vote in favor of passage as I did in subcommittee and full committee consideration. Again, I thank Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member OBERSTAR, Subcommittee Chairman PETRI, and Subcommittee Ranking Member RAHALL for their hard work and dedication to bringing truth and honesty to our federal surface transportation programs.

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE AND TIMES OF LIONEL HAMPTON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lionel Hampton, a great artist, a great American, a great ambassador, and one of the greatest musicians America has ever known.

In tribute to Lionel Hampton, on this his 90th birthday, I would like to share with you and this House, some of the highlights of this extraordinary man.

Lionel Hampton, the reigning King of the Vibraphone for over half-a-century, and one of the few surviving internationally renowned jazz talents of the swing era, was born in Birmingham, Alabama on April 20, 1908. He was a member of the Benny Goodman Quartet which was the first racially integrated group of jazz musicians in the nation, but left the group to form his own big band in the early 40s.

His original ballad, "Midnight Sun", written with Johnny Mercer and Sonny Burke, has be-

come an American jazz and popular classic. His two major symphonic works, "The King David Suite" and "Blues Suite" have been performed by many leading symphonic orchestras throughout the world.

Nevertheless, whether you are familiar with his musical accomplishments, over the years, Lionel Hampton has known no status where he was not eagerly accepted, as he has been well received the world over by Presidents, politicians, Kings and Queens. His very music has caused the walls of communist nations to come tumbling down.

Allow me now to share with you Lionel Hampton the constituent . . . the friend . . . the community leader. His fame and greatness have not let him forget the homeless and the hopeless. Long a supporter of public housing, he developed the Lionel Hampton Houses in the early 70s, and upon completion, built the Gladys Hampton Houses, named for his late wife. To this day, those projects are considered among the best in the nation.

The Lionel Hampton Community Development Corporation has built more than 500 low and moderate-income apartments in my Congressional District of Harlem alone.

Lionel Hampton holds more than fifteen honorary doctorates and received the Gold Medal of Paris, its highest cultural award, from its Mayor, Jacques Shirac.

He was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Kennedy Center in 1991 by President George Bush, and in December 1992, he was awarded a prestigious Kennedy Center Honor for his lifetime career achievements as a musician and teacher. Since then, he continues to produce educational events and considers the real highlight of his career as having the music school at the University of Idaho named for him, the Lionel Hampton School of Jazz.

Whether you are Black or White, Democratic or Republican, Liberal or Conservative . . . Lionel Hampton represents the very best of America.

Happy birthday Lionel Hampton.

WELCOMING THE AMERICAN WIND ENERGY ASSOCIATION TO BAKERSFIELD

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I take pleasure in announcing that the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) is holding its annual convention in Bakersfield, California this year and in welcoming wind energy experts from all over the globe to this event. Between April 27 and May 1, wind energy industry representatives and government officials from around the world will discuss and view new technologies and the burgeoning market for clean electricity generated with wind turbine technologies.

This convention is a special event for my constituents because others will notice just how important the Kern County wind energy industry has become when conventioners tour the Tehachapi Pass wind farms. Tehachapi hosts one of the largest concentrations of wind generation equipment in the United States. The area's 5,000 wind turbines produce enough power to light San Francisco. Wind power is big business in this small town:

some 3,200 jobs in the Tehachapi area are related to wind power.

The industry has a great story to tell everyone. Today, wind power is being generated in California, Hawaii, Vermont, Iowa, Texas and Minnesota. American companies have gone from buying foreign technology to developing and selling their own wind turbines here in the United States. There are tremendous international markets developing for U.S. wind technology and the industry has dramatically cut the cost of producing power with this environmentally-benign power source to as little as 3 cents per kilowatt hour. The future of wind energy will be explored by convention guests when they come to Bakersfield and I wish all who attend success as they chart the trade's future course.

BUILDING EFFICIENT SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND EQUITY ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN E. ENSIGN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2400) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes:

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Chairman SHUSTER and PETRI, and ranking members OBERSTAR and RAHALL for including in the BESTEA legislation an authorization for a new start rail project being undertaken by the Regional Transportation Commission of Clark County, Nevada (RTC). The RTC's Resort Corridor Fixed Guideway Project is included among these projects authorized for Final Design and Construction under Item (34) of section 332 of the bill. This project is currently in the preliminary engineering phase, and is critically needed to meet clean air demands and the ever increasing transportation needs in the Las Vegas Valley. The proposed system is anticipated to carry 95,000 passengers daily, and will provide efficient transit service into the Resort Corridor where over 50 percent of regional employment is focused. I appreciate the recognition given to RTC's Resort Corridor Fixed Guideway Project by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the authorization of new start projects.

IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY M. VANSANDT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to say a special word of tribute to Dorothy "Dottie" Mae Vansandt, the former Cass County, Missouri, Public Administrator, who passed away recently at the age of 75.

Dottie Vansandt was an important civic leader in Cass County, Missouri. She served as the county's public administrator from 1977 to 1992 and devoted her time to various community organizations. She was a member of